

Attorney Docket No.: 0190114
Serial No.: 09/679,857

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 25, 2005, the Examiner has rejected claims 16, 17, 33 and 34, and has objected to claims 18-28 and 35. By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled claims 18, 19 and 35, amended claims 16, 20, 23-28 and 33, and added new claims 36-55. After the present amendment, claims 16, 17, 20-28, 33, 34 and 36-55 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of outstanding claims 16, 17, 20-28, 33, 34 and 36-55 in view of the following remarks are requested.

A. Objection to Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figure 3, because the reference number 316 does not include "Yes" and "No" labels. By the present amendment, applicant has amended Figure 3 to include "Yes" and "No" labels for the reference number 316. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's objection has been overcome.

B. Objection to Claims

The Examiner has objected to claim 35 for reciting a method. By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled claim 35. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's objection to claim 35 has been rendered moot.

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C. Rejection of Claims 16, 17, 33 and 34 under 35 USC § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 16, 17, 33 and 34 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Alford, et al. (USPN 5,233,428) ("Alford").

By the present amendment, applicant has amended claim 16 to include the limitations of claim 18, but not the intermediate claim 17. According to the Examiner's reasons for allowance and objection to claim 18, applicant respectfully submits that claim 16, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Further, claim 17 depends from claim 16 and should be allowed at least for similar reasons claim 16 is allowable.

Similarly, by the present amendment, applicant has amended claim 33 to include the limitations of claim 35, but not the intermediate claim 34. According to the Examiner's reasons for allowance and objection to claim 35, applicant respectfully submits that claim 33, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Further, claim 34 depends from claim 33 and should be allowed at least for similar reasons claim 33 is allowable.

D. New Claims

By the present amendment, applicant has added new claims 36-44, which depend from claim 33, as amended. It is respectfully submitted that claims 36-44 have limitations similar to those of claims 20-28, respectively, and no new matter has been added. Further, applicant has added new independent system claim 45, which has limitations similar to those of independent claim 33, as amended. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 45 should be allowed. Further, new claims 46-55 depend from claim 45 and have limitations similar

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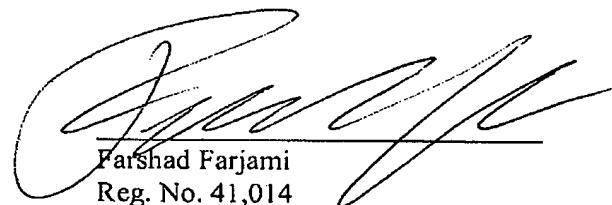
to those of claims 34 and 36-44, respectively. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that new claims 46-55 should also be allowed.

E. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance for pending claims 16, 17, 20-28, 33, 34 and 36-55 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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